

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
 - 2 receiving a description of a network component; and
 - 3 placing at least a portion of the received description into one of a plurality of sections
 - 4 of an electronic list of network components, each of the plurality of sections having a
 - 5 standard format.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein
 - 2 receiving the description of the network component includes receiving a description
 - 3 of a dynamic network device; and
 - 4 placing at least a portion of the received description into one of a plurality of sections
 - 5 includes placing the received description in a dynamic network device section of the
 - 6 electronic list of network components.

- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein
 - 2 the dynamic network device section includes a dynamic network device section
 - 3 element to describe a dynamic network device.

- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein
 - 2 the dynamic network device section element includes a data element to describe a
 - 3 network interface of the dynamic network device.

- 1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein
 - 2 the data element includes an information element to store a Media Access Control
 - 3 (MAC) address of the network interface of the dynamic network device.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein
2 receiving the description of the network component includes receiving a description
3 of a non-dynamic network device; and
4 placing at least a portion of the received description into one of a plurality of sections
5 includes placing the received description in a non-dynamic network device section of the
6 electronic list of network components.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein
2 the non-dynamic network device section includes a non-dynamic network device
3 section element to describe a non-dynamic network device.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein
2 the non-dynamic network device section element includes a data element to store IP
3 address information associated with the non-dynamic network device.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein
2 receiving the description of the network component includes receiving a description
3 of a power management device; and
4 placing at least a portion of the received description into one of a plurality of sections
5 includes placing the received description in a power management device section of the
6 electronic list of network components.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein
2 the power management device section includes a list of power management devices.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein

2 the power management device list includes an association element to specify a
3 network component associated with the described power management device.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein
2 receiving the description of the network component includes receiving a description
3 of a hub; and
4 placing at least a portion of the received description into one of a plurality of sections
5 includes placing the received description in a hub section of the electronic list of network
6 components.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein
2 the hub section includes a hub section element to describe a hub.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein
2 the hub section element includes a data element having an association element to
3 specify network components associated with the described hub.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein
2 receiving the description of the network component includes receiving a description
3 of a Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) switch; and
4 placing at least a portion of the received description into one of a plurality of sections
5 includes placing the received description in a VLAN switch section of the electronic list of
6 network components.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein
2 the VLAN switch section includes
3 a data element to describe the VLAN switch; and

4 a data element to describe a port of the VLAN switch.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein
2 the data element includes an association element to specify a network component
3 associated with the described port.

1 18. The method of claim 1, wherein
2 receiving the description of the network component includes receiving a description
3 of a router; and
4 placing at least a portion of the received description into one of a plurality of sections
5 includes placing the received description in a router section of the electronic list of network
6 components.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein
2 the router section includes
3 a data element to specify a router; and
4 a router interface data element to describe a router interface of the specified
5 router.

1 20. The method of claim 1, wherein
2 receiving the description of the network component includes receiving a description
3 of a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server; and
4 placing at least a portion of the received description into one of a plurality of sections
5 includes placing the received description in a DHCP server section of the electronic list of
6 network components.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein

2 the DHCP server section includes a DHCP server section element to describe the
3 DHCP server.

1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein
2 the DHCP server section element includes
3 a data element to specify the DHCP server; and
4 a DHCP server interface data element to describe an interface of the DHCP
5 server.

1 23. A network comprising:
2 a first network component; and
3 a second network component in electrical communication with the first network
4 component, the second network component having a processor and logic executable thereon
5 to
6 receive a description of the first network component; and
7 place at least a portion of the received description into one of a plurality of
8 sections an electronic list of network components, each of the plurality of sections having a
9 standard format.

1 24. The network of claim 23, wherein
2 the first network component is a dynamic network device; and
3 to place at least a portion of the received description into one of a plurality of sections
4 includes to place the received description in a dynamic network device section of the
5 electronic list of network components.

1 25. The network of claim 24, wherein

2 the dynamic network device section includes a dynamic network device section
3 element to describe the dynamic network device.

1 26. The network of claim 25, wherein
2 the dynamic network device section element includes a data element to describe a
3 network interface of the dynamic network device.

1 27. The network of claim 26, wherein
2 the data element includes an information element to store a Media Access Control
3 (MAC) address of the network interface of the dynamic network device.

1 28. The network of claim 23, wherein
2 the first network component is a power management device; and
3 to place at least a portion of the received description into one of a plurality of sections
4 includes to place the received description in a power management device section of the
5 electronic list of network components.

1 29. The network of claim 28, wherein
2 the power management device section element includes an association element to
3 specify a network component associated with the described power management device.

1 30. The network of claim 23, wherein
2 the first network component is a router; and
3 to place at least a portion of the received description into one of a plurality of sections
4 includes to place the received description in a router section of the electronic list of network
5 components.

1 31. The network of claim 30, wherein
2 the router section includes
3 a data element to specify the router; and
4 a router interface data element to describe a router interface of the specified
5 router.

1 32. The network of claim 23, wherein
2 the first network component is a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP)
3 server; and
4 to place at least a portion of the received description into one of a plurality of sections
5 includes to place the received description in a DHCP server section of the electronic list of
6 network components.

1 33. An article of manufacture comprising:
2 an electronically accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by an
3 apparatus, cause the apparatus to
4 receive a description of a network component; and
5 place at least a portion of the received description into one of a plurality of sections of
6 an electronic list of network components, each of the plurality of sections having a standard
7 format.

1 34. The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein
2 the electronically accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by
3 the apparatus, cause the apparatus to
4 receive the description of the network component includes instructions that, when
5 executed by the apparatus, cause the apparatus to receive a description of a dynamic network
6 device; and

7 to place at least a portion of the received description into one of a plurality of sections
8 includes instructions that, when executed by the apparatus, cause the apparatus to place the
9 received description in a dynamic network device section of the electronic list of network
10 components.

1 35. The article of manufacture of claim 34, wherein
2 the dynamic network device section element includes a data element to describe a
3 network interface of the dynamic network device.

1 36. The article of manufacture of claim 33, wherein
2 the electronically accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by
3 the apparatus, cause the apparatus to
4 receive the description of the network component includes instructions that, when
5 executed by the apparatus, cause the apparatus receive a description of a Virtual Local Area
6 Network (VLAN) switch; and
7 place at least a portion of the received description into one of a plurality of sections
8 includes instructions that, when executed by the apparatus, cause the apparatus to place the
9 received description in a VLAN switch section of the electronic list of network components.

1 37. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein
2 the VLAN switch section includes
3 a data element to describe the VLAN switch; and
4 a port data element to describe a port of the VLAN switch.

1 38. The article of manufacture of claim 37, wherein
2 the port section element includes an association element to specify a network
3 component associated with the described port.

1 39. A system comprising:
2 a first network component; and
3 a second network component coupled with the first network element through a
4 wireless local area network, the second network component having a processor and logic
5 executable thereon to
6 receive a description of the first network component; and
7 place at least a portion of the received description into one of a plurality of
8 sections of an electronic list of network components, each of the plurality of sections having
9 a standard format.

1 40. The system of claim 39, wherein
2 the first network component is a dynamic network device; and
3 to place at least a portion of the received description into one of a plurality of sections
4 includes to place the received description in a dynamic network device section of the
5 electronic list of network components.

1 41. The system of claim 40, wherein
2 the dynamic network device section includes a dynamic network device section
3 element to describe the dynamic network device.

1 42. The system of claim 41, wherein
2 the dynamic network device section element includes a data element to describe a
3 network interface of the dynamic network device.

1 43. The system of claim 42, wherein

- 2 the data element includes an information element to store a Media Access Control
- 3 (MAC) address of the network interface of the dynamic network device.